

Regional School District 12  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
September 12, 2016

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016 by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley. Roxbury Vacancy. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Sydney Worobel was absent. Alan Brown arrived at 7:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erica Ryland, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Laura Miller, Roxbury – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Jessie Barr, New Preston – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Mary Weber, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Lill Murphy, Bridgewater – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Tim Laughlin, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Doug Delisle, Bridgewater – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Ken Shultz, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Michael Kersten, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Janet Bouniauto, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
John Bouniauto, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
David Werkhoven, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Samantha Steinis, Roxbury – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Valerie Andersen left the meeting at 7:34 p.m. and returned at 7:37 p.m.  
Christy Harty, Roxbury – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Susan Nicholas, New Preston – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Jim McDonough, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Mary Sprong, Roxbury – spoke about AgSTEM project.  
Scott Werkhoven, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.

Valerie Andersen shared letters in support of the AgSTEM project that were emailed to the Board from: Robert and Pamela Lee, Jim McDonough, Louisa Wayne, Louise Churk, Sarah Belanger, Michelle Franklin, Amy Julia Becker.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Business Meeting – August 29, 2016

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield shared that the AgSTEM weighs heavily on him and the Board and that they will do what they think is best for the Region as soon as possible.

Valerie Andersen spoke about the need for a policy regarding video recording of the meetings by citizens when they are already being videoed by the Region.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino shared that CAAD (Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors) has appointed Matt Perachi to the Board of Control, serving as the president-elect. Dr. Cosentino spoke highly of Mr. Perachi as the Athletic Director and Dean of Students for Region 12.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the CABA conference coming up in November. Currently, Michelle Gorra and Rebecca Devine will attend with her.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the Retreat next Monday night at 6 PM. Special guests include: Joseph Cirasuolo and Charles Rothenberger.

*Personnel:* Dr. Cosentino reported that Autumn Jensen has been appointed as Front Entrance Security at SVS.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Building* – Mr. Cava reported the committee did not meet last week. A meeting will be scheduled as soon as they get the information they are waiting for.

*Education/Curriculum* – Mrs. Gorra reported that Teresa DeBrito will be giving a presentation on test scores and the following month Todd Dyer will present on the Class of 2016. Mrs. Gorra and Mr. Sinatra will meet with Teresa DeBrito to talk about the plan for presentations for the year.

*Facilities* – No report.

*EdAdvance* – Mrs. Gorra reported that Education Connection changed their name to EdAdvance due to a conflict with an online college. She spoke about the new executive director, Jeff Kitching, who took over in June and all the services they provide.

*Finance* – Mrs. Andersen reported the committee met earlier. They reviewed the preliminary year-end report. The auditing process has started. The committee also reviewed the August 31<sup>st</sup> financials. Status of the 1% capital reserve fund is \$313,000 and the elementary fund has \$101,000 as of the start of the new fiscal year. Mr. Tagley suggested press releases go out to let the public know all the things being done.

*Long Range Planning* – Mr. Brown reported the committee will meet on September 15. They will cover the Panarama surveys, international baccalaureate and multiage classrooms.

*Negotiations* – Mr. Cava reported that the teachers' negotiations will commence in October.

*Policies & Bylaws* – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee will begin meetings in two weeks.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*Current Enrollment Compared with Dr. Prowda's Projections:* Dr. Cosentino went through the enrollment document provided in Board packets listing enrollment projections from Dr. Prowda, actual enrollment, and tuition in students. Discussion followed.

*SVS Update:* Kim Gallo began by speaking about the four students and their teacher who produced a short film last year; ‘The World I Want To Live In’ and that they have been invited to the White House for the Student Film Festival. Mrs. Gallo spoke about the theatre program and the joint (6-12 grade students) production of Seussical last year. After listening to parents they found it was difficult for some families to keep up with all the rehearsals. They felt it would be best for the middle schools students to have their own production in the spring and the older students to have their fall and spring productions. Students enrolled in the course Independent Study Musical Theatre Production will take a leading role in running the middle school production. VHS has 24 students taking 29 different classes. Courses such as: Forensic Science, International Business and many AP classes i.e. Human Geography, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, and Language and Composition. Mrs. Gallo spoke about parent goals – increase parent and community awareness through the use of an extended syllabi. Ms. Ferreira presented the syllabi as accessible on the website.

*Agriscience Update:* Dr. Cosentino reported that they are still waiting to hear from the state. Valerie Andersen questioned ‘shovel ready’. Dr. Cosentino spoke about her conversation with the state asking them for a number that they are comfortable with. Dr. Cosentino spoke about the presentation that is being scheduled for Bethel.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

*Follow-up Meeting with Superintendent, Trooper Sordi and Board Chair:* Chairman Hirschfield reported on the meeting with Trooper Sordi and Dr. Cosentino regarding the threatening call intended for Roxbury School in Stamford, CT but was erroneously made to a school in Ohio on August 18. The following Saturday, concerns were raised on social media about Booth Free School being threatened but in fact Booth Free School was never in any danger. Chairman Hirschfield reported that communication between the Superintendent’s office and Trooper Sordi is very good and that Trooper Sordi speaks highly of the School Resource Officer at Shepaug and that we are fortunate to have her.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to enter into executive session to review non-certified staff contract extensions at 8:40 p.m.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The Board held a brief recess to relocate to a classroom off the library. Executive Session convened at 8:45 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:55 p.m.

### **ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to extend current contracts for Robert Giesen, Don O’Leary, and Karen Fildes for two years resulting in the following new end dates:

Robert Giesen, June 30, 2018  
Don O’Leary, June 30, 2018  
Karen Fildes, June 30, 2019

**VOTE:** unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.